

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 65 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 17, and 65 have been amended.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11-13, 15, and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,807,530 (Shub) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,100 (Yamada).

In Shub, a payment company can send the zip code of a customer to a merchant for determining shipping and handling charges. The package is prepared by the merchant while the payment agency utilizes a printer to print an address label that the merchant can associate with the order (using the public key) but cannot read otherwise. The label is covered with foil, which is removed by the delivery company. See Shub, column 2, lines 59-65.

As defined by currently amended claim 1, for example, the present invention recites an e-commerce method which is located at a customer's terminal. The method sends an anonymous order to a seller's terminal for a commodity via an information communication network and designates a non-residential place other than a residential place of a customer as a delivery destination via the information communication network wherein the anonymous order is void of personal identification information.

In addition, the e-commerce method involves a seller's terminal. At the seller's terminal, the method assigns transaction identification (ID) information peculiar to the anonymous order, notifies the customer's terminal of the transaction ID information via the information communication network, requests a payment agent's terminal for payment for the commodity, for which the customer's terminal made the anonymous order using the transaction ID information, and makes arrangements to deliver the commodity with the transaction ID information to the non-residential place using a commodity delivery means.

Furthermore, at a receiver certifying terminal, the method decides that the receiver certifying information generated by the customer's terminal corresponds to the receiver certifying information generated by the seller's terminal and transfers the commodity to a receiver for the commodity at the non-residential place, when the receiver certifying information generated by the customer's terminal corresponds to the receiver certifying information generated by the

seller's terminal (by using the transaction ID information and a receiver certifying information, which is generated so that it is void of personal identification information).

With such an arrangement, since, upon transfer of the commodity, certification may be made as to whether the receiver for the commodity is an authorized receiver, using receiver certifying information, which has been previously communicated between the seller and the customer, at the delivery destination (non-residential place) designed by the customer, it is possible to perform secure and correct transferring of the commodity.

In contrast to the present invention, a customer number "c" of Shub, which is used when the customer gets the commodity, relates to personal information of the customer. In addition, the ID card of Yamada includes member discriminating information by which a shop assistant can easily identify the customer.

Yamada simply discloses that information identifying a customer is attached to a commodity. Therefore, Yamada does not add anything of relevance to the primary reference Shub.

Both Shub and Yamada are silent about the above-identified features of currently amended claim 1, for example, especially the feature of deciding that the receiver certifying information generated by the customer's terminal is corresponding to the receiver certifying information generated by the seller's terminal, and transferring the commodity to the receiver at the non-residential place, when the receiver certifying information generated by the customer's terminal corresponds to the receiver certifying information generated by the seller's terminal, by using the transaction ID information and the receiver certifying information which is generated so that it is void of personal identification information.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the relevant art would not obtain the present invention by combining Shub and Yamada.

In light of the foregoing, independent claims 1 and 65 are patentable over the references. As dependent claims 2-6, 11-13, and 15 depend from independent claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

As Shkedy specifically states that customer identification information is stored in a central controller database, Shkedy does not disclose or suggest the features of currently amended claim 1. Therefore, Shkedy adds no relevant information to any of the combinations of references. See Shkedy, column 4, line 66 – column 5, line 2.

As Tsukuda merely discloses the use of a commodity cabinet, Tsukuda does not teach or suggest the above-identified feature and adds nothing of relevance to the combination of references.

As O'Leary's "Wallet" includes personal identification information such as credit card numbers, shipping addresses, and/or email addresses, O'Leary adds no relevant information to the combination of references. See O'Leary, column 9, line 65 – column 10, line 4.

As Quinlan's "rebate claim" includes identifying information corresponding to the customer, Quinlan adds nothing of relevance to the combination of references.

In light of the foregoing, claims 7-8, 10, 9, 14, and 16-18, via independent claim 1, are patentable over the various combinations of references.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of the Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 12/7/06

By: 

Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501